

HOLY COMMUNION: *Setting Four, July 5, 2020*

5th Sunday after Pentecost / Independence Day Sunday - *modified*

GATHERING

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

INDEPENDENCE DAY PRAYER LITANY:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA! **Independence Day Prayer Litany**



On July 4, 1776, our forefathers bravely advanced the cause of freedom and liberty by declaring this nation's independence and sovereignty and that all her citizens possessed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness given by our God. It is appropriate, therefore, as we celebrate our nation's birthday, that we give thanks to God for our liberties and pray for continued blessing upon our country, our government and our fellow citizens.

- L The earth is the Lord's
C **And all who dwell in it.**
L God is king over the nations:
C **God sits on His holy throne.**
L He rules by His might forever.
C **His eyes keep watch on the nations.**
L Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
C **For God judges the people with equity and guides the nations upon earth.**
L O Lord, be gracious to us and bless us,
C **And make your face to shine upon us.**
L May your ways be known upon the earth,
C **Your saving power among all peoples.**



Lord of the nation, guide our people by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give us what outward prosperity may be Your will, but above all things, give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all people; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:



The Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Our National Anthem

The Star-Spangled Banner

From the Poem "Defense of Fort McHenry"
by Francis Scott Key (1814)

O say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming.
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

CHILDREN'S TIME

Song:

"GOD BLESS THE USA"

(Melody: The Bear Went Over the Mountain)

God bless our country on its birthday.
God bless our country on its birthday.
God bless our country on its birthday.
God bless the USA.

God bless the USA.
God bless the USA.

Oh, God bless our country on its birthday.
God bless the USA!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS - *responsive*

A As we journey by faith in our world, let us acknowledge our sins and failures before God.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

A For our indifference toward His presence in our midst,

C We confess to you, Lord.

A For our desire to control the time and seasons of our own destinies,

C We confess to you, Lord.

For our injustices toward others – those we know and those we don't know,

C We confess to you, Lord.

A For lack of concern for those who will come after us,

C We confess to you, Lord.

A In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all of our sins. To those of us who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on us the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties
Above thy fruited plain:

America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

(Assisting Minister)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

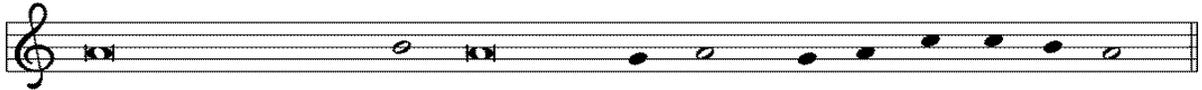
Kyrie



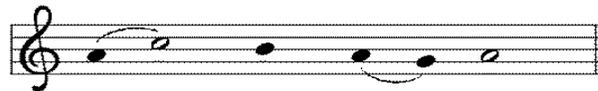
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



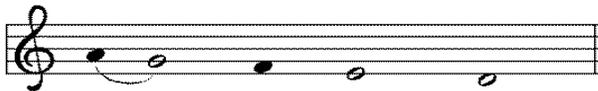
Lord, have mer - cy.



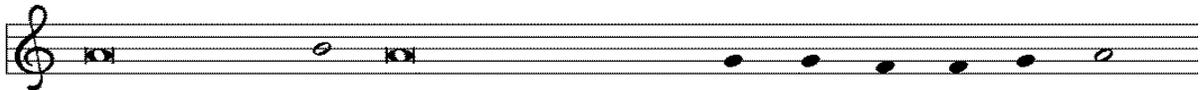
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



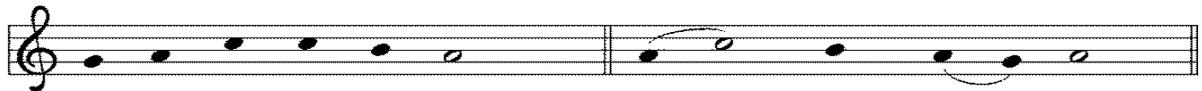
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

GOD'S WORD

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The reading is concluded: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Assisting Minister)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - July 5, 2020

Faithful God, you call us to love everyone everywhere without qualification. This has also been the call of our nation. As it says on the Statue of Liberty: 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.' Give us strength and wisdom to compassionately carry out our call. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Faithful God, today we lift up those who have served, now serve, and who will continue to serve in our nation's armed forces. Keep them safe O God and help them to serve with faithfulness and honor. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Faithful God, continue to pour out your healing grace upon all veterans who have suffered physical, spiritual and /or emotional injury in service to our country. Comfort them and provide for their wellbeing. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Faithful God, you are the Great Physician in all of our lives. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the corona virus, healing all who are sick with this virus. Give courage and strength to all of us through this time. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Faithful God, lead our President and Congress towards reconciliation and mutual collaboration for the good of our country's future as 'one nation under God'. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Faithful God, continue to equip our church council, our church committees and the whole congregation in carrying out the ministries of Your Church. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Faithful God, we pray for the sick, the homebound, those grieving loved ones who have died, those listed in our church bulletin prayer list and those we lift up this morning, either silently or out loud... Lord, in your mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Faithful God, hear the prayers of your people today and always. **Amen!**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

(Assisting Minister) **OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,
our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration,
but you make of them an abundance,
just as you do with our lives.
Feed us again at this table
for service in your name,
in the strength of the risen Christ.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(responsive)*

A God of our ancestors, friend in our midst,
your children come before you.
Here is food! Here is drink!
These things are yours before they are ours.
Now we are making a feast, but it is a thanksgiving:
God, we are thanking you.
With our ancestors in faith and all the hosts in heaven,
O God, we thank you and rejoice.
This food - we shall eat it in your honor!
This drink - we shall drink it in your honor!

A We thank you for giving us life.

C We thank you!

A We thank you for giving us freedom.

C We thank you!

A We thank you for bringing us peace.

C We thank you!

A We thank you for the one who bore our sins upon the cross.

C We thank you!

A We thank you for the one who brought us over from death to life.

C We thank you!

A Father, send the Spirit of life, The Spirit of power and fruitfulness.
With the Spirit's breath, speak your word into these things.
Give us who eat and drink the living body and the lifeblood of Jesus,
life and power and fruitfulness of heart and body.
Give us true communion with your Son.

P On the night of his suffering,
he gave thanks for the bread that he held in his hands.
This bread he shared among his followers, saying:
'All of you, take this, eat this;
it is my body, handed over for you.
Do this and remember me.'

C The body of Christ! Amen.

P Then he shared drink with them, saying:
'All of you, take this, drink this; it is my blood, the blood of the
new covenant that begins now and lasts forever.
This blood is poured out for you and for all people so that sins
may be taken away. Do this and remember me.'

C The blood of Christ! Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all is prepared.
Amen.

COMMUNION

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen us and keep us in His grace.
Amen.

(Assisting Minister)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the welcome table,
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness
and have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine on us and
be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with great favor and give... us
peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Words & Music: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Harmony: Charles H. Webb, 1967

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

